

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 09263 280411Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7919

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 9263

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, CH, MY

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN REPRESENTATION AT DPRK NATIONAL DAY

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 9184 (NOTAL)

1. ROK AMBASSADOR CHYUN TELLS ME THAT, IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUERIES, MFA SECRETARY GENERAL ZAKARIA HAS CONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THE GOM WILL SEND DATUK MICHAEL CHEN, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, TO PYONGYANG TO REPESENT THE GOM AT DPRK'S NATIONAL DAY SEPTEMBER 9. ACCORDING TO CHYUN, HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE GOM'S DECISION, AND CONCERN THAT, ALONG WITH THE GOM'S CURRENT ACTIVE RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM, IT WOULD BE TAKEN AS A SHIFT IN GOM'S TRADITIONALLY NEUTRAL STANCE. ZAKARIA ASSURED HIM THAT GOM'S POSITION OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WIITH ALL COUNTRIES REMAINED UNCHANGED, AND THAT CHEN'S PRESENCE AT PYONGYANG'S NATIONAL DAY CEREMONIES WAS MERELY A "COURTESY".

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2. CHYUN SAYS HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE DPRK AMBASSADOR HERE PRESSED THE GOM VERY HARD FOR THIS GESTURE, AND THAT MOST OF THE PRESSURE WAS ON CHEN, WHO APPARENTLY SERVIES AS GOM LIAISON WITH THE DPRK EMBASSY. (CHEN AT ONE TIME LED A SPORTS DELEGATION TO PYONGYONG.) ACCORD-ING TO CHYUN'S INFORMATION, CHEN BROUGHT THE MATTER UP AT A RECENT CABINET MEETING; PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN

THOUGHT A SENIOR MINISTER SHOULD GO BUT GOT NO VOLUNTEERS
AND SO DESIGNATED CHEN. WHEN CHEN POINTED OUT HE WAS NOT
A SENIOR MINISTER, THE PRIME MINISTER STUCK TO HIS DECISION.
CHYUN NOTED THAT THE MATTER APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DECIDED
IN A RATHER OFF-HAND MANNER.

3. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE AUSTRAIN AMBASSADOR TO
MALAYSIA, ROBERT MARSCHIK, WILL REPRESENT AUSTRIA AT THE
PYONGYANG CEREMONIES, FILLING IN FOR HIS COLLEAGUE IN
PEKING, WHO IS ON LEAVE.
MILLER

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NNN

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